

# CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL

Of the Cactus And Succulent Society  
Of America

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FIG. 63. *Opuntia basilaris*.  
Photo by George Olin.



## CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL

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## AFFILIATE NOTES

Mail your news items monthly to Mrs. Maybelle Place, 645 W. 40 Place, Los Angeles 37.

## DENVER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

"There isn't much news about the Denver Cactus and Succulent Society, but we did have a get-together last Friday night, (Sep. 10.)

Quite a number of our members were working on the "night shift" and were unable to attend. The rest of us spent an interesting evening discussing "winter care" for our plants.

We have had frost already. So we have had to bring in the more sensitive plants. The others have to be covered at night. We are all praying that the war will soon cease and we can resume our regular meetings."

Miss Muriel Colburn, President.

## HENRY SHAW CACTUS SOCIETY

The September meeting was another picnic, this time at the home of Mr. Austin and according to their "Cactus Digest," will probably wind up the out-door activities for the year. From Cactographs, by Mr. Cutak, are these two fine descriptions of Epiphyllums:

"*Epiphyllum oxypetalum*, native to tropical America is widely cultivated in the tropics in many parts of the world. Our plant begins flowering in May, continues through June, then has a rest period in July, and begins blooming again in August and finishes for the year in the latter half of September. It has a peculiar flower, curved like a saxophone, but becomes limp and drooping on the approach of dawn. In my opinion it is not the loveliest of the night-blooming cacti but it is irresistible. Its flowers measure about a foot in length, the flower-tube occupying nearly half of this measurement. The petals and sepals unfurl into a broad cup-like receptacle filled with a great number of thread-like stamens in two series. The inner stamens are much longer and attached to the tube wall while the outer ones are much shorter and are attached to the throat. I have found the flowers most fragrant, sending out its sweetness into the night air.

"*Epiphyllum Hookeri* is still another broad-leaf type of cactus with a much more slender type of flower. Britton and Rose claim that this plant is widely cultivated in tropical America and Trinidad, it forms great masses on trees and on coastal cliffs. At the Garden it bears blossoms from June until October. The flowers measure about 8½ inches long and are white without any odor. The sepals are narrow, light-greenish but often with rose-colored tips. The petals are alabaster white and shaped like the sepals. The style is carmine in color while the radiating stigmas are bright yellow. On cool mornings the

flowers usually stay open for several hours, sometimes as late as midday."

## SOUTHWEST CACTUS GROWERS

The Sept. meeting was held at Mr. and Mrs. Place's. *Sempervivums* were the subject for the day, Mrs. Place giving the talk, according to the set-up by R. L. Praeger. About thirty plants of the tender and hardy *Sempervivums* were shown and quite a general discussion followed.

## K. I. O. CACTUS CLUB

The officers for the coming year are: President, Mr. H. Ranshaw; Vice-President, Mr. L. F. Combs; Treasurer, Mrs. H. Ranshaw; Rec. Secy., Miss M. Diehl; Corr. Secy., Mrs. D. Neumann, Jr.

From a letter from Chas. R. Cole, F.C.S.S. "At the regular meeting of the K. I. O. (Ky., Ind., O.) Cactus Club, on Sat., Sept. 18, Mr. C. A. Stewart, Chief Florist of Irwin M. Krohn Conservatory in Eden Park, Cincinnati, gave an entirely unexpected direction to the thoughts of the members and visitors when he told of the soil mixture he uses for cacti, during his instructions for planting including dish gardens. Soil mixtures, watering and insecticides are of primary importance to the devotees of this hobby of collecting, doing, learning and making things. This soil mixture found by Mr. Stewart answers the requirements of cacti: 2 parts leaf mold, 2 parts broken pots, 1 part charcoal, 2 parts sharp (bank) sand.

"The mixture is put through a No. 4 (¼ in. mesh) screen and the sand put through a No. 16 (1/16 in. mesh) screen. What does NOT go through the screens is used for potting. For the types of cacti that do not grow in trees and old stumps, 1 part of old plaster is added to the above and treated in the same manner. Most cactus fans have been doing almost the same all along. "Almost," because they have been using what went through the screens instead of what did not go through. Mr. Stewart explained that this mixture allowed watering the plants twice daily in dry weather with no ill effects, and no watering when the air is full of moisture; one of the troubles of cactus collectors of this climate is the rotting of plants during long periods of wet weather. During dry winter weather the plants should be well syringed at least once each week to keep them healthy."

"Plans for the International Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America to be held in Cincinnati July 4 to 15, 1945, will be started during the coming year by the Convention Chairman, C. R. Cole. How about a "round robin" among the Regional Vice-Presidents?



FIG. 64. *Haworthia Greenii*, Bak., nat. size.

## Notes on Haworthias

By J. R. BROWN

*Haworthia Greenii* Bak. in Journ. Linn. Soc. XVIII (1880) 202, in Fl. Cap. VI (1896) 338; Berger in Pflanzenr. IV. 38. (1908) 85; Poelln. in Repert. Sp. Nov. XLIII (1938) 108.

Plant with leafy stems 15-20 cm. long and 5 cm. in diam.

Leaves numerous, crowded, erect, lanceolate-deltoid, 3-3.5 cm. long, 16-18 mm. wide, deep green, face of leaves flat, smooth, without mark-



FIG. 65. Leaves of *Haw. coarctata*, A, and *Haw. Greenii*, B.

ings, back of leaves rounded, lightly keeled in the upper part and with 7 scarcely raised lengthwise lines on which are small, white spots, irregularly distributed and becoming obsolete on the older leaves.

Type locality unknown.

Introduced to cultivation in England by Thomas Cooper about 1860.

*Haworthia Greenii* is quite close to *Haw. coarctata* Haw., main distinctions being the shorter leaves of the former and the leaf markings. In *Haw. coarctata* the markings are remote, raised, white tubercles which can be distinctly felt by the finger tips, while the white

spots of *Haw. Greenii* are immersed and the leaves feel almost smooth to the touch. The white spots are quite noticeable on the young, paler green leaves. The leaves of *Haw. Greenii* attain a length of 4.5 cm. and but little difference is noted in the width of the leaves of the two species, which is about 2 cm. in old leaves developed under outdoor culture.

Leaves of *Haw. coarctata* and *Haw. Greenii* are shown, these are mature, basal leaves taken from plants when received from So. Africa and probably show their greatest development. The smaller leaf, taken from *Haw. Greenii*, still shows a few white spots near the keel, usually however, the white spots disappear with age.

The plant shown in the illustration of *Haw. Greenii* is part of a plant received from Grahamstown 10 years ago, and the greatest length attained by the stems during this time was 20 cm., the older stems becoming decumbent with age.

It flowers in So. California during Aug. and Sept. and a brief description of the flowers, etc., is given. Peduncle simple, 30 cm. and more tall, including the raceme. Pedicels 2-3 mm. long, bracts 1-1.5 mm. long. Perianth erect-spreading, 17-18 mm. long, the obclavate tube lightly curved, greenish white, the lower segments recurved, the upper segments only slightly recurved, the tips of the segments with brownish keels. The flowers, etc., bear a close resemblance to those of *Haw. coarctata*.

Dr. von Poellnitz, l.c., quotes, regarding the locality of *Haw. Greenii*, "Howiesons Poort, 5 miles from Grahamstown on the road to Port Elizabeth, forming larger clusters between the rocks with stems to 30 cm. long."

The photos. show a plant of *Haw. Greenii*, nat. size, and the back of a leaf of *Haw. coarctata*, A, and of *Haw. Greenii*, B, nat. size.

## Cacti and Morale

By HERMAN F. BECKER

Recently the Biology Department of Brooklyn College has acquired a fine loan collection of cacti, euphorbias, and other assorted succulents. Dr. A. A. Bernhardt of Brooklyn, now Captain of the U. S. Medical Corps, was at odds as to what to do with his spiny pets when called to the colors. With tedious effort he had built up his collection one by one, writing for and traveling, buying, begging and exchanging. He knows the history of each of his pet plants, always giving them loving and tender care. During the summer months the collection sweltered in the semi-shade of his back-yard, which was studded with tropical foliage and flowering plants. The winter saw them protected in his

so-called greenhouse, a long, narrow brick affair with three decker benches and large windows.

Interests into certain things in life are often gradually accelerated and permitted to develop into a life's hobby. We may then become so attached to it that our endeavor and absorption make us sometimes the slave of this activity. We frequently find ourselves neglecting other important things on account of it, putting more urgent affairs in the background. I think that every person with a hobby has had this experience at one time or another. Normally, however, any hobby balances and stabilizes the daily routine of our lives. Be it cacti, tropical fish, shells, butterflies or postage stamps as in



FIG. 66. Capt. A. A. Bernhardt's cactus collection being cared for at Brooklyn College. Also meet Herman Becker of the Biology Dept. to whom we are indebted for some fine South American photos. See JOURNAL, Vol. VI, pg. 44 and Vol. VIII, pg. 193 for some of his educational exhibits.

my case, the intensity of our reaction to the hobby reflects invariably the proportion of our rest and recreation.

If it is easy for anyone to leave house and home for the defense of our country, it should also be equally easy to leave everything else, knowing that during the absence all matters will be taken care of in the usual manner. But if your hobby happens to be plants or animals with nobody else in the family experienced or interested in their care, then you leave with an empty feeling; you know that upon your return much of your precious collection has been destroyed through ignorance or negligence. The

thoughts of such possibilities haunt you as long as you are away.

Despite all inquiries, Dr. Bernhardt found nobody willing or interested to take over a temporarily orphaned collection. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden graciously descended to take some plants for keeps; others were given to friends. Seeing the good Doctor's plight, I decided to make room in the already crowded College greenhouse of the biology department. I discarded duplicates and useless plants of all sorts, and took over the bulk of his choice specimens for the duration. Their temporary acquisition has proven well justified by the great interest



they create with students of biology and art. Although the correct labeling leaves much to be desired, general groups and families are well marked and may be regarded in comparative study. Art students especially have flocked to the greenhouse ever since the collection was put up, finding great stimulation in the variety of form and color. A few *Gymnocalycium*s have bloomed in rapid succession and for a long time.

Compared with some of the outstanding collections in this country, this one is modest indeed. But it contains nevertheless a few good specimen such as *Lophophora*, *Ariocarpus*, three varieties of *Astrophytum*, *Cephalo-Pilo-Lopho-* and *Haageocerei*, a good crested *Opuntia* and many fine grafts. *Euphorbias* are well represented; *Aloes*, *Gasterias* and *Haworthias* are also present. Due to the change to abundant light and constantly favorable greenhouse conditions, almost every plant has tried to outdo the other in rapid and abundant growth. If the war lasts another year, I'll have to place the

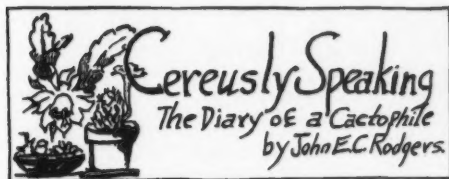
Doctor's collection either on the floor or raise the roof of the hothouse! Incidentally, many of Captain Bernhardt's specimens came from the late Mr. Bullard's collection, who was a mutual friend of ours and most generous at all times.

Many a good Succulent collection here in the cold East is endangered by the induction of its master. It seems to me that anyone, who during smooth and prosperous times of peace calls himself a friend of such a man, should consider it his patriotic duty to facilitate shelter and care for the plants. Nothing is more disheartening to a collector than to see the fruit of his hobby dispersed and destroyed. It is said somewhere, that if you take a man's hobby, you take his life. Everyone should see that our men, who go out among other things to protect our right to such hobbies, know, that their own hobbies are in loving hands, and that they may return to them someday to continue with new enthusiasm.

EDITOR'S NOTE: What do you think of the idea of creating a Cactus Bank or a collection of plants from which our returned servicemen can draw without charge? John Rodgers started the plan but it has fine possibilities for renewing interest in collections that have been neglected or losses due to patriotic war efforts.



FIG. 67.  
*Trichocereus santiaguensis*  
photographed in Prov. Santiago, Chile, by Hans Becker, brother of Herman Becker.



## CULTURE IN OHIO

October 1. Saw two young robins enjoying the white mistletoe-like-berries on one of my *Rhipsalis cassytha*. There'll be no spreading of this cactus plant in the cane-breakers of the South, I hope. I don't want pseudo-botanists to claim it—as a native there, too. 40 degrees this morning but 46 degrees under the protection of the grape arbor. Quite a bit different from September 1, when it was 98 degrees in the shade at noon. Mr. Masson, assistant superintendent of schools, suggested I bring my four trays of cacti back to school. It is a good light, south exposure. Thinks it was a commendable project. Widens the pupils outlook and gives them a chance to learn of man's conquest of mountains, plains and deserts to find out more about our globe. He was more than interested to learn that many of those same 200 plants had been found by and named after schoolmasters.

October 3. Eleventh bloom on *Hamatocactus* (*Ferocactus*) *hamatocanthus*. Plant has been in the same five-inch pot for six years. An adult plant needs very little attention I find for its soil needs, but I do have to watch for fungus, insects, excess moisture and poor light. Up to now I have had no policy, for my adults social security has been overlooked. Today I checked over my collection and found over half of my collection is adult. Time flies! Why I started out only in 1928 with my hobby. I often wonder now whether it is my hobby or my master—there are so many plants and so little time to acquire them—hobby? I wonder?

October 4. In Mansfield, Ohio, to see my friend, Henry Poth—81 years and an ardent cactophile. He was busy with his plants which he put back in the greenhouse a month ago. *Huernia longituba*, *penzigii*, *primulina* and *schniederiana* in bloom. *Acanthocereus subinermis*, *cereus tetragonus*, *Opuntia* "Burbank spine-less," and *Euphorbia tirucalli* well healed over with their heads drying by their sides to re-root. Not an outrage to behead cacti, just good sense. Had grown against the glass at the ridge pole. Stopped at Paul Pickering's—has a large collection of *Gasterias* in the windows. The cacti and other succulents are protected by the porch and house. No heavy frosts as yet, but moving plants in this week. Fine plants free of pests and potted in a well-drained soil.

October 7. Looked at the two *Espostoas*—plants which I brought back from Rochester when Gene Ziegler and I visited John R. Dean, another collector. Has a two foot *Cephalocereus senilis*. Had about a dozen *Espostoa dawsonii* variety *sericata* and *Espostoa lanata*. When he found I was a collector, he gave me a fine plant of each. Was I pleased, well, what would you say? His *Euphorbia* collection is getting to the place where he has to "amputate" several heads to keep the plants within bounds. He apologized for the looks of his greenhouse, but I know when I hear such apologies, that here is a collector not a "house-keeper." Did you ever see a real florist that did any business who had a "cleaned-up" shop, if you did he was cleaned-up."

October 11. First frost but didn't do any damage to plants. I got up early and fine sprayed everything

with the hose before the sun hit them. I have my flowers for two or three more weeks when I give them this treatment as the next killing frost comes between October 9 and 20. Lake Erie tempers the fall winds and then Indian summer. My plants get a chance to "harden" before I move them into winter quarters if the rainy season holds off. I "harden" them in the full sunlight—cool evenings and withhold water—this is my treatment for getting my plants ready for winter. Good old Ohio, changeable as a woman and as many moods, but who wants the monotony of the "perfect climate." My friends say, "Why don't you go where they grow, Rodgers." Not me, I'd rather be where cactus are rarities. There I'd be just one of many—here I'm having fun.

October 14. My dismay was not feigned when I read "over 250 species of insects have been collected from cactus—" I was about ready to throw up the sponge when I read further "in Texas." Yes, sir, imagine it. I can see why those Texans are discouraged. I read on in "Texas Cacti" by Ellen D. Schulz and Robert Runyon—"In Texas, diseases destroy more cacti annually than insects." Here I've been envying you folks who live where heat is from old sol and emptying ashes is unknown or almost so.

October 16. One of my waggish friends came in while I was sterilizing sand, humus and good garden soil for my "emergency closet." Hey, John! your farm is steaming." And so it was but 250 degrees for 4 hrs. is the answer to those ordinary bacterial, insect and fungus diseases that we encounter in these parts. Steam sizzling through that soil keeps that precious humus from burning up, too, while killing those "pesky varmints" I mention.

October 20. Last vestige of golden color gone from the dried flower of *Pleiospilos magnipunctata*. Opened September 14 and faded just last week. Feminine visitors oh! and ah! over it. Such a beauty. Reckless handling is not for this genus as the leaves break easily. I use a rich soil but it is half sand and fine gravel. All of my *Pleiospilos* are kept on the "dry-side" but they set on sand which absorbs the "rapid-run-through." Several years back I lost them and bought them. Too much water on clayey soil florists use to compensate for their light watering and too warm a winter location were the cause of my loss. My species of this genus are now on my "balcony bench" where full sun hits them all winter and spring. I give them noontide protection from the full sun in summer. So far I have not been bothered with any insect pests. My favorites are *opatus*, *bolusii*, *nelii* and *simulans*.

October 24. "To use glazed pots or not to use glazed pots" that is the question. I have several letters which suggest I come clean either pro or con. If I had my way I'd either double pot my whole collection or use glazed pots with side drainage. Hearsay? No I am only giving you my opinion and it is from my own experience. My nicest plants are the result of this treatment. I do say good drainage is a prerequisite to success. The expense of this undertaking is all that stops me. Come one, come all! What do you think? Your opinion is as good as mine. I'm for glazed pots or double potting.

October 26. *Sedum sieboldi* in bloom. Hardy. Some of my friends who shudder when I say "from Japan" are now eager to have it, of course its "Korean" to them. Grows best for me in the pockets of my strawberry jar. People who have to say its impossible to root from cuttings, but I do it. They, of course, explain it by saying mysteriously you have "green-fingers"—No says I, just a love of plants and an understanding of their needs. I don't enjoy people who think, "Gods will be done about humans and

plants." We need to study both—says I. "Green-fingers" is a lazy person's excuse for another's successes in plants.

October 28. Back in the groove again. Hard coal burners set up, coal in bin, plants resting, cool mornings with closing and opening of ventilators "by God and by Guess." Succulents augmented by a gift of 71 beautifully grown plants from A. S. Harmer's collection, Dieringer, Washington. Folks do you remember I was running out of space last year—well I was, but I have added three shelves in my little potting room, etc. What fools these mortals be.

October 31. In Cleveland on business but did my Woolworth, McCrorys, Kresges field trips. What splendid plants they handle now in comparison with the few I could get back in 1931-1935. I saw little *Parodias*, *Malacocarpi* and *Rebutias* along with the regular standbys.

#### Culture Cues for November

1. Syringe budded *Zygocactus truncatus* regularly to keep buds from dropping off.
2. Continue watering *Echinopsis* if light is strong and location is not too warm 50 to 60 degrees.
3. Provide regular way of supply a thorough airing of greenhouse at least once a week.
4. Study "Succulents for the Amateur" to get water culture notes for various groups.
5. Use medium strength spray of "Black Leaf 40" to combat multiplication of pests in dryness and protection of greenhouse.
6. Check for first signs of sickness among plants.
7. Give special attention to the following plants which have bloomed in November in past years. Cactus: *Mammillaria albicans*, *camptotricha*; *Rhipsalis boulettiana*; *Zygocactus truncatus*; *Epiphyllum pitteri*, *oxypetalum*, *stenopetalum*, *grandiflorum*; *Lepismium commune*; *Hamatocactus setispinus*. Succulents: *Stapelia bella*, *hanburyana*, *comparabilis*; *Kleinia pendula*, *articulata*; *Haworthia cuspidata*, *cymbiformis*; *Euphorbia obesa*, *founerii*, *melosformis*; *Schwantesia radebuschii*; *Byrophyllum tubiflorum*; *Crassula argentea*.

New Epiphyllum Catalog, Bulletin No. 2, has been issued by the Ventura Epiphyllum Gardens, Theresa M. Monmonier, 153 East McFarlane Drive, Ventura, Calif. Fifty new introductions for 1941-42 are listed with descriptions. Besides the General Listings there are various selected collections. The cultural directions are simple enough to convert any flower grower. Send 10 cents for a copy of Bulletin No. 2.

#### Some Statistics of the Cactus Family (1941)

From "The Cactus and Its Home by Forrest Shreve"

Total number of genera.....	124
Total number of species.....	1235
Number of genera in the United States.....	33
Number of species in the United States.....	202
Number of species in the eastern United States..	27
Number of species in Florida.....	22
Number of species in Texas.....	96
Number of species in New Mexico.....	65
Number of species in Arizona.....	70
Number of species in California.....	30
Number of genera in Mexico.....	54
Number of species in Mexico.....	524
Number of genera in South America.....	51
Number of species in South America.....	459
Number of species of <i>Opuntia</i> (the largest genus)	259
Number of species of <i>Opuntia</i> in the United States	90
Number of species of <i>Opuntia</i> in Mexico.....	87
Number of species of <i>Mammillaria</i> (second largest genus).....	149
Number of species of <i>Mammillaria</i> in the United States.....	17
Number of species of <i>Mammillaria</i> in Mexico....	134

EDITOR'S NOTE: Who can give us a revised list as of 1943 to see what discoveries have been made in the last 12 years? Be sure not to include the shifting from one genus to another as something new. The list will be somewhat changed by following the classification of Marshall and Bock. S. E. H.

THE CACTUS AND ITS HOME by Forrest Shreve of the Desert Laboratory of the Carnegie Institute of Washington, Tucson, Arizona. This book was first published in 1931 and still remains the most scholarly cactus book published to date. Written in a popular style, the author describes the cactus, its construction, its names, classification, and culture. The appendix contains some of the most valuable information such as listings of the cacti found in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. After 15 of these books have been sold it will only be available as a rare book item. Order your copy now.....\$3.50

WHAT KINDA CACTUS IZZAT? by Reg Manning, famous cartoonist of the Southwest. This 100 page book is packed with humorous cactus drawings which are based on hundreds of interesting facts. For amusement and information, this book is unique. Ideal as a gift book for those who hate or enjoy cacti. Cloth bound \$1.30 post paid. BOX 101, PASADENA

#### Captions for Fig. 68

TOP LEFT: "*Aloe dinteri*," says Mr. Triebner, "Was found by Prof. Dinter fifteen years ago in the Kaoko Veld, but found only one plant; for twelve years I looked in the same locality but found no more plants. In 1936 I made a collecting trip throughout the Ovambo, Angola and the French Congo and returning home in the northern parts of the Kaoko Veld in the bushman area, hundreds of miles from where Dinter collected his first plant of *Aloe dinteri*, I again found a few specimens." *Aloe dinteri* has very large fleshy roots and does not adapt itself well to California's rainy winters. It is closely related to *Aloe variegata*, *A. ausana* and *A. carowii*. The last named species having much shorter leaves and more compact and broad. Flowers are very small and inconspicuous. Very difficult in cultivation. No doubt *A. dinteri* and *A. carowii* are two of the rarest and least known Aloes in cultivation today as well as the most beautiful. TOP RIGHT: *Aloe variegata* (left), *Aloe ausana* (right). The former needs no comment as it is sufficiently well known. *A. ausana* is a comparatively recent introduction and is termed by some as a glorified *variegata*. It is more resistant to dampness and basal rot and attains a size twice to three times that of *Aloe variegata*. In *A. variegata* the leaves have a tendency to make a slight spiral, very compactly built one on top of the other, while in *Aloe ausana* the same spiral effect is true but the leaves are loosely arranged in their spiral to where a rotate appearance is slight. Flowers of *A. ausana* are much larger and earlier. CENTER LEFT: *Selenicereus grandiflorus* from Jamaica flowering in the garden of R. W. Kelly, Temple City, California, June 28th. The flower is eight inches across and a strong fragrance similar to the boiling of cocoa and vanilla seems to emit, not from the flower tube, but from the base of the perianth. CENTER RIGHT: "Live Forever," *Sempervivum arachnoideum*, flowering in the garden of C. J. MacCourt, Altadena, California, in July. The bright pink flowers last for days. BELOW: The flowering tip of a three-foot branch of the "Organ Pipe," *Lemaireocereus thurberi*. Chas. Cole was quite proud to flower this plant in Ohio in April; during August there were seven other flowers on this single branch which was collected east of Ajo, Arizona.





FIG. 68. Photos from Society members. See opposite page.

## HOUSE PLANTS WHICH ANYONE CAN GROW

By PETER CARLISLE, in Dec., 1942 "Horticulture"  
(Reported by Daniel Neumann, Jr.)

Gardening books lump together, under the title of "Cacti and Other Succulents," a host of fleshy leaved plants of real importance to indoor gardening. Overlooking the technical differences by which they are classified botanically, most of these succulent-leaved plants have a common ability to survive indifferent care.

During those seasons when they are not in active growth, too little watering is more welcome to them than too much. Most succulents are aided in adapting themselves to indoor culture by the fact that they do not require full sunlight. Also, many succulent plants are of rather slow growth and thus do not require constant repotting.

Even so, they cannot be expected to thrive when subjected to real abuse. Coming, as most of them do, from at least partially arid regions, they need better soils than is generally supposed. The desert soils of their former homes are usually rich because the plant food content is not being constantly broken down or leached away. Also, the good drainage of arid soils must be provided if succulents are to remain healthy in cultivation. Such conditions will prevail if the plants are potted in a soil made up of equal parts of garden soil, sand and leaf mold limed to give about a neutral reaction.

Succulents are interesting, for the most part, because of the shape, texture, color and arrangement of their stems and foliage, but many of them are also grown for their flowers. One such group is that which used to be called Bryophyllums, but are now included under the name of Kalanchoe. In late years *K. blossfeldiana* of Madagascar has become a common florist's plant. Some of the taller Bryophyllums, such as *B. diadematum*, are of little value other than for blooms, unless it be for the interesting way in which new plantlets are formed in the notches of the leaves. *B. fedtschenkoi* and *K. somaliensis*, being of lower stature, make better foliage plants. This is particularly true of the latter.

Echeverias are also interesting, both for their rosettes of delicately colored leaves and the panicles of bloom which rise above them. There are many species of Echeverias in cultivation, including the hairy-leaved plush plant (*E. pulvinata*) which needs careful watering when not in growth. The firecracker plant (*E. setosa*) also forms a rosette of hairy leaves, above which rise vivid red and yellow flowers.

Aloes are old world succulents which can remain in the same pots for season after season. Many of them are far too big for indoor culture, except during their early years. Years ago the older plants were placed outdoors in summer and wintered in a cellar after the manner used in keeping Century Plants. Treated in that way, they did not flower regularly.

Many Crassulas are available for window gardens. Some of them, such as *C. spatulata*, make attractive trailing plants for pot culture. Quite different in appearance is *C. falcata*, long known as *Rochea*. Its bright crimson blooms remain open for weeks. Indeed this long period of bloom is common to many succulents.

Another mat-forming crassula is *C. cooperi*, which seldom grows to be more than five inches high and in autumn is covered with small white blooms. Probably the best known succulent is the Jade Plant (*C. argentea*) with its rounded leaves and ability to assume a tree-like habit as it grows older.

The so-called Creeping Berries (*Kleinia radicans*)

is well suited for hanging pots. Its white blooms stay open for long periods. Another trailing plant of similar usefulness is called Little Pickles (*Oibonno crassifolia*); above the low mat of its small light green fleshy leaves rise many daisy-like yellow flowers on three-inch stems.

Tiger Jaws (*Faucaria tigrina*) is made interesting by the way in which its compact clusters of fleshy triangular leaves fringed with hairy teeth resemble the jaws of a ferocious animal. Another unusual succulent is the Love Plant (*Anacampseros telephium*) in that its small fleshy leaves turn coppery in color when placed in strong sunlight. Also, its reddish flowers open only in the sun.

The true cacti also have a place in window gardening. The acquisition of such kinds as the downy headed Old Man or an *Opuntia* has been the start of many a large collection to the owners of which shades of difference take on increased meaning. In general the true cacti have the same cultural requirements.

It may not be generally known but Gen. Patton's tank troops, which acquitted themselves so nobly in the Tunisian campaign, were trained in the California desert. Most of the desert is now being used for bombing ranges, target ranges and tank training grounds. I'm afraid, from fragments of information that come out, this war is doing more damage to the desert flora of California and smaller sections in other southwestern States than was ever done before by all other agents. You may recall that during the last war, *Cephalocereus keyensis* was almost exterminated on the Florida Keys, owing to the necessity (for military purposes) of clearing the hammocks in which it grew.

—CUTAK.

HUMMEL'S VICTORY PICTURE BOOK is now available only through your local florist or cactus dealer. Ask them to write to Hummel's Exotic Gardens, 4848 Imperial Highway, Inglewood, Calif. The issue of the Cactus Journal which contained this book as an insert is already depleted.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912. Of Cactus and Succulent Journal, published monthly at Pasadena, for October, 1942, State of California, County of Los Angeles.

Before me, a notary in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Scott E. Haselton, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor-Publisher of the CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Scott E. Haselton, Box 101, Pasadena.

2. That the owner is: CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC., and leased to SCOTT E. HASELTON, who created and published said magazine to date.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None. Cactus and Succulent Society is a nonprofit organization and issues no stock.

SCOTT E. HASELTON.  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1943.  
CHESTER R. PYLE, Notary.



# SPINE CHATS

LADISLAUS CUTAK



Recently, while doing some research work on a certain succulent plant, I came across a rather entertaining bit of English humor, which I think you will enjoy. A certain Mr. S. Reynolds Hole of Cauntun Manor seemed somewhat perturbed when he learned that the British Government was planning to install a number of telegraph posts along the road leading past his house. Lt. Herbert Jekyll, supervisor of the work, hearing of his friend's disturbed peace of mind, attempted to alleviate his sorrow with the following humorous letter, the original of which was published in *THE GARDEN*, some 72 years ago. Accompanying the letter was a clever cartoon of a mythical *Agave*



*telegraphica* which is reproduced on this page. I'm positive that the cartoon will have a tendency to tell a far more effective story about the tall *Agave* flower-stalks than any lengthy word picture could give. Those of you who have seen century plants in bloom, especially when planted in rows or along roadsides, will, with little imagination, recall immediately a startling picture of telegraph poles, minus the wires. Or do you have imagination? For your enjoyment I reprint the humorous letter below:

"My dear Sir:

Know you to be pre-eminent as a horticulturist, I beg to bring to your notice a magnificent species of the *Aloe* tribe (*Agave telegraphica*). This highly ornamental plant flourishes best by the side of roads and on railway embankments, and I strongly recommend it to your notice, feeling that it would succeed admirably at the edge of the high road at the foot of your lawn, where it would be seen to great advantage from your drawing room windows. A philanthropic Government is actively employed in propagating this rare and deservedly admired plant, and should you desire to have a few specimens, I am empowered to supply you with them at the expense of the country, and to plant them in suitable situations. The *Agave telegraphica* is a native of Great Britain, but has been successfully acclimatized in all parts of the world. It succeeds equally in all soils, and remains in flower all the year round. We have hitherto been unsuccessful in our endeavours to raise it from seed, but a large stock is now at the Government nursery-gardens, and the plants sustain no injury from being moved at their full growth.

Believe me, yours truly,

Herbert Jekyll, L.R.E."

A new ocotillo was described several months back by Faustino Miranda in the *Anales del Instituto de*

Biologia, Universidad Nacional de Mexico (13: 451-462, 1942). It is *Fouquieria Ocoterenae*, a plant with glabrous, sessile, obovate to oblanceolate leaves and a racemose inflorescence. It grows at Amatitlan, around Matamoros, in the State of Puebla.

A vacation trip to Dallas, Texas, and a subsequent visit to the Lang Floral Stores started Jay E. Gilkey of Oklahoma City in the fascinating hobby of collecting cacti. It so happened that his florist friend, at the time, had on hand some intriguing spiny plants that caught the eye of the visitor. Before he left he secured a number of cacti to take home. But the real thrill came when Mr. Gilkey stopped off at Mineral Wells on a trip that a certain party had a large collection for disposal. Unfortunately the owner was not at home but Gilkey got to see the collection, leaving a note behind for the proprietor, which was promptly answered a few days later. A special trip to Mineral Wells was arranged that November to bring the plants home. He had the house full from the back porch to the front, all tables and floor covered with more than 500 different kinds of cacti and a lot of Euphorbias and other succulents. Then mother put her foot down and said enough. Since then, he had to get rid of some of the plants for lack of proper space but he still has a fair-sized collection. Euphorbias and Haworthias are his prime favorites now and he also possesses a lath-house where he keeps his plants during the summer months. Mr. Gilkey has followed the leaded glass trade for 38 years but for the duration he has taken a job with the Douglas Aircraft Corporation in his home town.

The Pima Indians used to put up great quantities of molasses in hermetically-sealed ollas or jars. This syrup was pressed from the fruit of the saguaro, *Carnegiea gigantea*. Nearly a century ago, when our Government was conducting expeditionary campaigns along the border, this native delicacy was often exchanged by the women for beads, red cloth, etc.

Bromeliaceae are terrestrial, often xerophytic and epiphytic plants of which the pineapple and the Spanish moss are the most popular examples. Although many of them are associates of orchids on the trunks of tropic trees, strangely too, among them can be found a goodly number growing with cacti in the arid deserts, particularly the *Dyckias*, *Hechtias* and *Puyas*. My good friend, Mulford B. Foster of Orlando, Florida, who also has a commendable cactus collection, has probably the most extensive group of bromels in this country. He has spent a full year in the jungles and deserts of Brazil, bringing to light more than 50 new species. He has one rare novelty, *Dyckia Fosteriana*, that I'm particularly anxious to possess. Yet he tells me that I'll be a grandfather or even a great grandfather before I'll get one of those plants if the present rate of growth is any criterion. The original plant, which he brought from Brazil, is slowly subdividing with two heads but as yet there are no seeds for distribution. In his opinion (and mine too) it is a plant with the highest priority, for its leaves are made of platinum and its flowers of pure gold. Thanks to Mr. Foster, we too have a very good bromel collection at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

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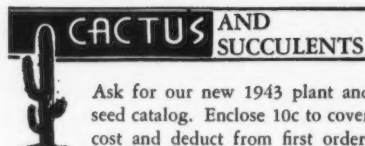
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